

NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ITHACA, NEW YORK

LABORATORY OF BACTERIOLOGY

May 30, 1952

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin.

Dear Joshua:

I am very sorry to be so slow in replying to your letter of March 7, but this last term has been a rat race and I have been able to accomplish very little and unable to properly take care of correspondence.

To answer your question re the bacteriology setup at Cornell, my official title is Professor of Bacteriology. There are some seven or eight bacteriology staff members who constitute the Laboratory of Bacteriology, which is a part of the Department of Dairy Industry. The letterhead frequently indicates Department of Dairy Industry and sometimes one uses Laboratory of Bacteriology letterhead; people just use what is closest at hand. If you received a letter indicating I was a Professor of Dairy Industry, it was an error. This seems a rather peculiar setup, but it has its virtues. Administratively, it is quite simple and in addition, the Laboratory of Bacteriology spends a disproportionately large share of the profits from the operation of the milk and ice cream business of the Dairy Department. All in all, it works out very well. This arrangement evolved from Sherman's primary interest in bacteriology, although he has always been Head of the Dairy Industry Department here at Cornell.

I enjoyed talking with Zinder very briefly at Boston, and I wish to take this opportunity to indicate that he did a beautiful job both on the formal paper and at the Round Table. You have every reason to be proud of him.

Tomorrow I leave for Oak Ridge and three months of hard work. I am rather sorry to have gotten involved in this, but it is too late to do anything now.

Many thanks for the copy of the report and Greetings to both you and Esther.

Sincerely yours,



Max R. Zelle
Professor of Bacteriology

MRZ:LP